

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listing, and versions, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for utilizing a product code having product information contained therein for interfacing a user node to a remote node over a network, comprising the steps of:

5 extracting the product information from the product code at the user node, which product code is disposed on or in close association with an associated product;

in response to the step of extracting:

assembling a message packet containing the product information;

transmitting the message packet to an intermediate node on the network;

11 receiving from the intermediate node on the network instructional code that instructs the user node to connect to one of the remote nodes on the network that has defined association with the extracted product information defined at the intermediate node; and

connecting the user node to the one of the remote nodes in accordance with the received instructional code such that connection to the remote location is controlled by the intermediate node through the instructional code, wherein all connections to desired locations are controlled only by the intermediate node and not by any actions at the user node other than the operation of extracting, and wherein actions at the user node do not prevent connection or effect connection to the remote location.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product code comprises machine readable code.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of extracting comprises scanning the machine readable code to extract the product code information therefrom.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the machine readable code comprises a bar code.

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5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents a UPC.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents an ISBN number.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the bar code represents an EAN number.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, and further comprising the step of interfacing with the network utilizing network routing information embedded with the instructional code.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message packet comprises the steps of:

transmitting the message packet containing the product information to the intermediate node on the network;

5 comparing the product information with an associative database having stored therein associations with a plurality of product information and associated routing information and determining if there is a match;

if there is a match, returning instructional code embedded with the routing information to the location at which the product information was extracted for assembly into the message packet.

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